

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, deleted text is indicated by ~~striketrough~~. Changes are identified by a change bar in the margin.

Listing Of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

1 23. (currently amended) A storage system comprising:
2 a first I/O port for connection to a communication network;
3 at least a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port for connection to the
4 communication network, the first and second I/O ports each receiving write requests;
5 an array of media for storing information, the array comprising a plurality of disk
6 storage units organized into a plurality of logical disks;
7 a plurality of data paths, each data path being selectively connectable between any
8 one of the logical disks and any one of the I/O ports; and
9 a configuration table;
10 an allocator to allocate one of the data paths between one of the logical disks and
11 one of the I/O ports based upon a data rate capability of said one data path determined from
12 communication speed information of the configuration table to thereby provide a desired quality
13 of service.

1 24. (previously presented) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of
2 media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage
3 system allocates individual ones of the array of media to individual ones of the data paths to
4 provide the desired quality of service.

1 25. (Canceled)

1 26. (currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of
2 media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different
3 communication speeds of operation.

1 27. (previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage
2 system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a
3 data rate capability of a communication link coupled to one of the data paths.

1 28. (previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired
2 quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates
3 individual ones of the array of media based upon a guaranteed bandwidth.

1 29. (currently amended) A storage system comprising:
2 an array of storage media;
3 at least a first I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port, each
4 having a network connection operable to connect the array to a network with a desired quality of
5 service;
6 a configuration table;
7 a plurality of data paths to selectively couple the I/O ports to the storage media,
8 wherein a data path between one or more of the array of storage media and the network
9 connection is selected in accordance with communication speed information of the configuration
10 table to provide sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

1 30. (Currently amended) A method for allocating resources in a storage system,
2 the storage system comprising a first of I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O
3 port and an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by data paths, the method
4 comprising:
5 establishing a data path between a storage device of the array and one of the I/O
6 ports, wherein said one of the I/O ports is coupled to the network connection; the data path being

7 selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data capacity of the storage device and
8 data rate capability of the network connection determined in accordance with communication
9 speed information from a configuration table; and

10 selecting a storage device of the array based upon the data capacity and the data
11 rate capability of the network connection.

1 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of
2 establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to
3 accommodate the desired quality of service.

1 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of
2 establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to
3 accommodate a data capacity of the array.

1 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting
2 ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data
3 capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.

1 34. (new) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the configuration table
2 includes information relating to data rate capability of the I/O ports and the logical disks.

1 35. (new) A storage system as in claim 29 wherein the configuration table
2 includes information relating to data rate capability of the I/O ports and the array of storage
3 media.

1 36. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the configuration table includes
2 information relating to data rate capability of the I/O ports and the array of storage devices.